



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Galveston District

News Release

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Galveston District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, responds to Hurricane Rita

FORT WORTH, Texas – Upon evacuation orders issued by Col. Steve Haustein, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District Commander, the District headquarters closed Sept. 21, 2005 at three o'clock. Emergency-essential personnel relocated to the District's alternate Emergency Operations Center (EOC) located at the Houston Project Office (Addicks and Barker Reservoirs).

"Our first priority is to our employee's safety and accountability," said Col. Haustein.

Approximately 18 Galveston District employees relocated to the alternate EOC, representing various offices. Media calls may be directed to 817-832-3642 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. The Galveston District EOC may be contacted at 281-497-0740.

The Galveston District has survey launches in position to assess navigational channels and various waterways after land fall of Hurricane Rita.

"Boats will be launched as soon as it is safe to do so to assess damage, determine whether to dredge shoaling caused by the storm and/or to remove any possible navigational hazards and debris," said Col. Haustein.

Under the National Response Plan, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provides support to the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency by executing assigned missions such as providing water, power, debris removal, ice, temporary housing, temporary roofing, and logistical support.